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ABSTRACT

This volume of essays is collected and reconfigured from more than 150 original speeches and papers of Milton Meltzer. Throughout the book, Meltzer makes a case for the value of good writing and the importance and utility of literacy instruction using nonfiction. Meltzer addresses the need for better-written history texts and encourages students to engage in critical thinking in the reading and writing of history, especially biography. Eighteen chapters are divided into three parts. Part 1, "Meltzer on Writing," contains: (1) "Seeding Vision, Energy, and Hope: Writing and Social Responsibility"; (2) "Where Have All the Prizes Gone?"; (3) "On Teaching and Learning History"; (4) "The Book as Revelation"; (5) "History as Sausage: Richly Textured and a Bit Spicy"; and (6) "Imagination, Invention, and Information." Part 2, "Touch the Heart and Open the Mind," includes: (1) "Ordinary People: In Their Own Words"; (2) "On Ethnic Stereotyping"; (3) "Writing about the Jews"; (4) "On Racism"; (5) "On Wars and Peace"; and (6) "On Terrorism." Part 3, "Intriguing People," addresses: (1) "The Designing Narrator"; (2) "Benjamin Franklin"; (3) "Lydia Maria Child"; (4) "Dorothea Lange"; (5) "Christopher Columbus"; and (6) "Hughes, Twain, Child, and Sanger: Four Who Locked Horns with the Censors." The volume concludes with an epilogue, a bibliography, and a list of books by Milton Meltzer. (EH)

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